

**COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN**

P.O. Box 2506, Hartford, CT 06146, (203) 245-8076

[ccsct@comcast.net](mailto:ccsct@comcast.net) 203 245-8076

Testimony to the Environment Committee

Raised Bill No.6034: AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON  
CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS: **SUPPORT**

Prepared by James Crook

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Good morning Senators Kennedy and Chapin, Representatives Albis and Shaban and distinguished members of the Environment Committee.

My name is James Crook and I am here today representing the Coalition of CT Sportsmen (CCS).

First we would like to thank Governor Malloy for his statements made during his successful reelection campaign in favor of Sunday hunting without restrictions.

Those who oppose this bill will argue for their “one day of peace in the woods” and that “bow hunting is inhumane (high crippling rate). Yet they are able to enjoy 365 days of peace the woods, whereas hunters are confined to a season. This bill addresses bow hunting deer on private land, that’s only 16 weeks (not most of the year). Giving DEEP this management tool may decrease that season once the population starts to level off to acceptable levels. Bow hunting is mostly done from an elevated position, usually from a tree stand. Therefore the arrow will be traveling down so as not to become stray. Also it’s only arrows not bullets, so no noise. Domestic animals are never mistaken for deer. Their studies claiming that bow hunting has a high crippling rate were done in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Texas. These states do not have the forests that we in CT have. Hunters here are reduced to about 20 yds. with a bow. That translates to better accuracy and total penetration of the arrow, often a through and through. We also don’t get as excited due to the overpopulation of targets. Bow hunting is considered an instant kill method in CT.

Common Core math and charts do not correspond to logic and scientific fact. Apparently doing the math is not easy. Human predators (hunters) are only one method nature and the CT DEEP use to control the over populated deer herd in CT. Those who oppose this bill don’t mention deer/car collisions (estimated 18,000/yr. in CT), starvation, disease, non-human predation, exposure or tractors/harvesters.

The Black-legged tick may have well over 100 hosts, over its two year life cycle, mainly during the larvae and nymph stages. The CT Dept. Of Public Health states that “Deer have an important role in the life cycle of the ticks that transmit Lyme disease. Adult deer ticks need a blood meal before laying eggs and most frequently this is obtained by feeding on deer. Therefore, while deer do not serve as a source of infection, deer control can play a role in prevention of Lyme disease when

used as part of an integrated pest management program to reduce tick populations."

Bow hunting on private property is a property rights issue. Possibly the one activity in CT that is legal to do only six days a week. The wildlife watchers, which I am one, can still enjoy themselves on state property, or on their own property. In addition to being a wildlife watcher, I also outspend myself in a month on bird seed compared to what I spend a year on hunting.

Please support H.B. 6034.

I'd also like to say that all the people who came here today supporting this bill are the true experts and conservationists. I'd just ask you to learn as much as possible from them, because they live this every day. Thank you for your time and I will try to answer any questions that you may have.